

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-57, 60-150, and 153-186 were pending in the above-identified patent application. Of those, claims 16-26, 38-52, 63-93, 109-119, 131-145 and 156-186 were withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claims 1-11, 14, 15, 94-104, 107, and 108 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stautner et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,172,677 (hereinafter "Stautner") in view of Farris et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,881,131 (hereinafter "Farris"). Claims 13 and 106 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stautner and Farris, and further in view of Alexander et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,177,931 (hereinafter "Alexander"). Claims 12 and 105 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stautner and Farris, and further in view of Dillon et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0059526 (hereinafter "Dillon"). Claims 27-33 and 120-126 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stautner in view of Farris and Scharber et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,374,290 (hereinafter "Scharber"). Claims 34, 35, 37, 127, 128, and 130 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stautner, Farris, and Scharber, and further in view of Cirasole et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,987,606 (hereinafter "Cirasole"). Claims 36 and 129 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stautner, Farris, Scharber and Cirasole, and further in view of Dillon. Claims 53-57, 60-62, 146-150, and 153-155 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander in view of Farris.

Reconsideration of this application in light of the following remarks is hereby respectfully requested.

Summary of Applicant's Reply

Applicant has amended claims 1, 27, 53, 94, 120 and 146 to more particularly define the claimed invention. Applicant has canceled claims 8 and 101 without prejudice. Applicant has amended claims 9-11 and 102-104 to correct antecedent claim basis. No new matter has been added and the amendments are fully supported by the originally-filed specification (see, e.g., applicant's specification at FIGS. 14-16, 18, and 26; page 44, line 26, to page 45, line 27; page 47, line 25, to page 48, line 8; and page 56, lines 9-33). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Rejections of Claims 1-15 and 94-108

Independent claims 1 and 94 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stautner in view of Farris. Dependent claims 2-15 and 95-108 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) using various combinations of references.¹ These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention, as defined by independent amended claims 1 and 94, is directed to a method and system for allowing a user to access newsgroup listings via an interactive television application that

¹ Independent claims 1 and 94 were amended to incorporate some of the features of respective dependent claims 8 and 101. Claims 8 and 101 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stautner and Farris. Therefore, in addressing the rejection of independent claims 1 and 94, applicant will address the Examiner's rejections with respect to claims 1, 8, 94, and 101.

is implemented using user television equipment. A plurality of program listings in the interactive television application is displayed, where at least one of the program listings has at least one newsgroup listing related to the subject matter of the program listing. A user is notified of the availability of the at least one newsgroup listing related to the subject matter of the program listing (e.g., via an icon appearing within the program listing, a pop-up icon, a pop-up window, an audio signal). The user is allowed to issue a command associated with viewing the at least one newsgroup listing. In response to the user issuing the command, the at least one newsgroup listing is displayed. The user is allowed to select the at least one newsgroup listing. In response to the user selecting the newsgroup listing, newsgroup message listings associated with the selected newsgroup listing are displayed. See, e.g., applicant's specification at FIG. 18 and page 47, line 25, to page 48, line 8.

The Examiner, on pages 6 and 7 of the Office Action, alleges that Stautner and Farris disclose all of the features of applicant's claimed invention. However, the Examiner provides no support for the claim limitations

[allowing] the user to select the at least one newsgroup listing; and

[displaying] newsgroup message listings associated with the selected at least one newsgroup listing on the display upon the user selecting the newsgroup listing

in the cited references. Instead, the Examiner merely states that "this is how newsgroups operate in practice" (Office Action, page 7). Applicant submits that the examiner bears the initial burden of factually supporting any prima facie conclusion of obviousness, which requires

that all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. See MPEP §§ 2142 and 2143.

At least because neither Stautner nor Farris shows or suggests allowing a user to select a newsgroup listing and displaying newsgroup message listings associated with the selected newsgroup listing, applicant submits that neither Stautner, Farris, nor their combination, shows or suggests all the features of applicant's independent claims 1 and 94.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 94 are allowable. Claims 2-7, 9-15, 95-100, and 102-108, which depend from independent claims 1 and 94, respectively, are therefore also in condition for allowance.

The Rejections of Claims 27-37 and 120-130

Independent claims 27 and 120 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stautner and Farris, and further in view of Scharber. Dependent claims 28-37 and 121-130 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) using various combinations of references. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention, as defined by independent amended claims 27 and 120, is directed to a method and system for providing moderated newsgroup messages to a user of an interactive television application. An automatic filter is used to moderate the newsgroup messages. Each of the newsgroup messages is associated with a respective newsgroup and is moderated to meet a predefined rating (e.g., ratings comparable to movies or television shows) associated with the respective newsgroup. Newsgroup messages that do not meet the predefined rating are automatically edited (e.g., by removing keywords or replacing them with

synonyms or symbols) to meet the predefined rating associated with the respective newsgroup. The user is allowed to use the interactive television application to access the newsgroup messages. The moderated newsgroup messages are displayed to the user. See, e.g., applicant's specification at FIGS. 25 and 26 and page 55, line 19, to page 56, line 33.

The Examiner admits that Stautner and Farris "fail to disclose using an automatic filter to moderate the newsgroup messages, wherein each of the newsgroup messages is associated with a respective newsgroup and is moderated to meet a predefined rating associated with the respective newsgroup" (Office Action, page 11). In addition, applicant submits neither Stautner, Farris, nor their combination disclose using an automatic filter to moderate the newsgroup messages "wherein newsgroup messages that do not meet the predefined rating are automatically edited to meet the predefined rating associated with the respective newsgroup," as required by applicant's amended independent claims 27 and 120.

Applicant submits that Scharber does not make up for the deficiencies in Stautner and Farris. Scharber describes an NNRP agent which may be used to set group filtering and rating preferences for virtual communities of users. The NNRP agent may allow for "articles to be removed by a community group if that group deems it to be offensive" (Scharber, col. 4, lines 8-9), or to "prevent the community's clients from accessing those articles [that do not conform with the community's standards]" (col. 4, lines 19-23). Applicant submits that removing articles or preventing access to articles does not comprise "automatically [editing newsgroup messages] to meet the predefined rating associated with the respective newsgroup," as required by applicant's amended

independent claims 27 and 120. At least for this reason, applicant submits that Scharber does not show or suggest applicant's claimed invention.

Because none of the references, taken alone or in combination, show or suggest all the features of applicant's independent claims 27 and 120, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness (MPEP § 2142).

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 27 and 120 are allowable. Claims 28-37, which depend from independent claim 27, and claims 121-130, which depend from independent claim 120, are therefore also in condition for allowance.

The Rejections of Claims 53-57, 60-62, 146-150, and 153-155

Claims 53-57, 60-62, 146-150, and 153-155 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander in view of Farris. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention, as defined by amended independent claims 53 and 146, is directed to a method and system for displaying interactive television program guide content to a user. Television programming is displayed in a reduced sized video window in a first section of a display. At least one newsgroup message listing is simultaneously displayed in a second section of the display. Other content (e.g., an interactive advertisement, text, graphics, video) is also simultaneously displayed in a third section of the display. The subject matter of the newsgroup content is related to the subject matter of the television programming and the other content. The user is allowed to select a newsgroup message associated with the at

least one newsgroup message listing. In response to the user selecting a newsgroup message, the newsgroup message is displayed. See, e.g., applicant's specification at FIGS. 13-16 and page 44, line 26 to page 45, line 27.

Alexander generally describes "the display of, and recording control interface with, television programs, video, advertising information and program scheduling information" (Alexander, col. 1, lines 37-40). More particularly, FIG. 1 and the corresponding description of Alexander describes a television display screen 10 having a PIP window 12, panel ad windows 14 and 16, and a grid guide 22. The PIP window 12 displays a currently telecast program. Panel ad window 14 displays an ad for a future telecast program. Panel ad window 16 displays an ad for a product or service. Grid guide 22 displays program listings for various times and channels. See Alexander, FIG. 1; and col. 3, line 1 to col. 4, line 43.

The Examiner admits that Alexander "fails to disclose the additional information consists of newsgroup content" (Office Action, page 16). The Examiner points to PIP window 12 as showing the television programming displayed in the first section, grid guide 22 as showing the additional information displayed in the second section, and ad window 16 as showing the other content displayed in the third section (Office Action, page 16).

Although applicant's claimed invention may generally implicate the subject matter of Alexander, applicant's claimed invention patentably improves upon Alexander by allowing a user to display newsgroup message listings with subject matter that is related to simultaneously displayed television programming and other content, and by allowing the user to select a newsgroup message listing in order to display a newsgroup message

associated with the selected newsgroup message listing, as recited in applicant's independent claims 53 and 146.

Farris also fails to show or suggest this feature of applicant's independent claims 53 and 146. The Examiner only relies on Farris to show the use of newsgroups (Office Action, page 17).

Even if one were to combine the use of newsgroups described in Farris with the television display screen of Alexander as the Examiner contends, neither reference shows or even suggests that the user be allowed to select a newsgroup message listing, and that a newsgroup message associated with the user selected newsgroup message listing be displayed upon the user selecting of the newsgroup message listing.

Therefore, neither Alexander nor Farris, whether taken alone or in combination, shows or suggests all the features of applicant's amended independent claims 53 and 146.

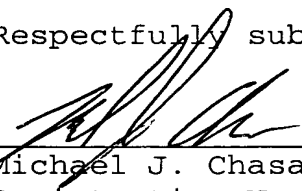
For at least the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 53 and 146 are allowable. Claims 54-57, 60-62, 147-150, and 153-155, which depend from respective independent claims 53 and 146, are therefore also in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that this application, including claims 1-7, 9-15, 27-37, 53-57, 60-62, 94-100, 102-108, 120-130, 146-150, and 153-155, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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